Remarks

Pending in the application are claims 1-35, of which claims 1, 11, 19 and 32 are independent. This amendment amends claims 1, 11, 19 and 32. The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 5-7, 21 and 33-35 would be allowable if recited in independent form. The following comments address all stated grounds of rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

A. Rejection of claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 2,819,692 to Johnson et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Johnson concerns a safe deposit receptacle designed for installation as a structural element in the wall of a building. This receptacle is constructed of materials strong enough to provide structural rigidity upon installation in keeping with the strength of the component replaced by the receptacle. This replacement safe deposit receptacle may be constructed of reinforced concrete, which is both fireproof and tamperproof. Furthermore, this concrete replacement block includes a metallic front panel (i.e., a door) incorporating a locking mechanism for securing the metallic front panel in a closed position. The metallic front panel is manufactured of steel, and includes a hollow cavity which may be filled with a thermally insulating material, such as fiberglass, thereby providing fire protection of the interior contents of the safety deposit box. Furthermore, the safety deposit box of Johnson includes a locking mechanism comprising a keyed lock as well as a pair of laterally extending lock bars. Upon operating the keyed lock assembly, these locking bars are moved laterally outward, thereby engaging recesses (21 and 22) located within the internal walls of the safety deposit box cavity. These recesses

are sized to accept the extended locking bars and serve to secure the safety deposit box cover to the safety deposit box case.

Amended claim 1 of the pending application, in comparison, recites a locking cover for a component rack *containing electronic components*. The cover includes at least one lock mechanism. The lock mechanism includes a sliding security plate such that the lock mechanism extends beyond one end of the cover to prevent access to at least one of the *electronic components*. Johnson fails to disclose a locking cover for a *component rack containing electronic components* as required by claim 1. In addition, Johnson does not disclose a sliding security plate that prevents access to components in a component rack, as required by claims 1.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art to Johnson fails to disclose each element of pending amended claim 1. Applicants therefore ask the Examiner to pass amended claim 1 to allowance.

B. Rejection of claims 11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 28 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 28 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,401,247 to Zoor. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Zoor recites a fastening device for supporting brackets or luggage racks on the external drip rail of an automobile. This mounting arrangement includes a supporting foot (1) and a hooked clamping claw (4) which engages the external surface of the vehicle drip rail. This clamping claw (4) is held in position by a threaded fastener such that the clamping claw may capture the supporting foot against the vehicle drip rail, thereby allowing items such as a vehicle roof rack to be attached. Additionally, the Zoor reference discloses a protecting cap which covers the mounting screw. Installed within the protective cap at a level below the mounting screw is a keyed locking device, such that when in the locked position access to the mounting screw is prevented.

In addressing the Examiners rejection of independent claims 11, 19 and 32 in light of Zoor, Applicants submit that the Zoor reference fails to anticipate the pending invention. Amended claims 11, 19 and 32, which disclose a locking system for a component rack containing *electronic components*, are not anticipated by the mechanical automotive drip rail fastening device of Zoor. As Zoor fails to disclose a locking system for use with said component rack containing electronic components, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11, 19 and 32 are in condition for allowance. Claim 11 has been amended to note that the sliding security plate blocks access to the fastener and thus blocks access to the electronic components. Claim 19 has been amended to note that the fastener must be removed to access the tray and any electronics components on the tray. These limitations are not disclosed by Johnston. In light of the above, Applicants request the passage of claims 11,19 and 32 to allowance.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 12, 14, 18, 20, 24, 25, 28, and 35, which rely on the aforementioned independent claims 11, 19 and 32, are therefore allowable based on the reasons set forth above regarding claims 11,19 and 32.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. in view of Loughlin. Loughlin discloses a padlock consisting of a two tapered shackle element such that these two tapered shackles overlay each other such that when in contact with each other a traditional U-shaped shackle is formed. When placed in the unlocked position, these two tapered shackle elements are free to move apart such that the padlock hasp may be placed between these tapered elements thereby allowing the subsequent locking of the shackle and the retention of the hasp.

Applicants respectfully submits that pending claim 3, as a dependent claim which relies on independent claim 1 for support, is in condition for allowance. Claim 3 recites a lock mechanism used in conjunction with a sliding security plate which is utilized in

retaining an electronic component in a rack. The cited art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the retention of an electronic component within a component rack as recited by the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 3 depends. In light of this, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass claim 3 to allowance.

B. Rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. in view of Edmondson. The Edmondson reference teaches a vehicle wheel locking device such that said device attaches to a vehicle lug nut. This device additionally contains a chock which is situated such that the chock prevents rotation of the vehicles wheel is upon installation of the locking device. Furthermore, the Edmondson device incorporate at least one lock sleeve which allows attachment of a padlock or tumbler lock which serves to prevent removal of the wheel locking device absent a means for removing the aforementioned lock.

Applicants respectfully submit that pending dependent claim 4,which relies on amended independent claim 1 for support, is in condition for allowance following Applicant's arguments over the aforementioned rejection to claim 1 as claim 4 incorporates all the limitations of claim 1. In light of the arguments over the rejection of claim 1, Applicants submit that the Johnson and Edmondson references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the use of a padlock for aiding in the retaining of an electronic component within a component rack. In light of this, Applicants respectfully request the passage of claim 4 to allowance.

C. Rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being rendered obvious by Johnson et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Dependent claims 8-10 of the pending invention depend on independent claim 1 for support. Applicants submit that amended independent claim 1 of the pending

application contains non-obvious subject matter. Applicants specifically submit that the locking cover for a component rack containing electronic components wherein a locking mechanism is coupled with a sliding security plate as recited in claim 1 is non-obvious over the teachings of Johnson. Johnson fails to teach or suggest a locking cover for a component rack containing electronic components; rather it is directed to a safety deposit box. In light of the dependence of claims 8-10 on claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 8-10 are in position for allowance. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner pass dependent claims 8-10 to allowance.

D. Rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Regarding the Examiner's rejection for claim 17 as being unpatentable over Zoor, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. An noted previously, Zoor teaches a fastening device for use on an automobile drip rail. In comparison, pending amended independent claim 11, on which claim 17 depends, teaches a locking system for a component rack *containing electronic components*. Applicants submit that pending claim 11, as amended, is non-obvious in light of Zoor. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art to Zoor, which discloses a fastening device for mounting a luggage rack to the drip rail of an automobile, fails to render the component rack containing electronic components obvious. In light of the above, Applicants now submit that dependent claim 17 is therefore allowable, and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass claim 17 to allowance.

E. Rejection of claims 15 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being rendered obvious by Zoor and Loughlin (U.S. Pat No. 5,865,043). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As noted previously, Loughlin discloses a padlock consisting of a two tapered shackle element such that these two tapered shackles overlay each other such that when in contact with each other a traditional U-shaped shackle is formed.

Applicants submits that amended claims 11 and 19, on which claims 15 and 22 respectively rely, are non-obvious over the teachings of Zoor and Loughlin. In light of this, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 22 are thereby allowable. Applicants further submit that there exists no motivation to combine the locking mechanism for use in an automotive luggage rack device of Zoor with a combination lock of Loughlin when designing a locking system for a component rack containing electronic components. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner pass claims 15 and 22 to allowance.

D. Rejection of claim 16 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 16 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Zoor in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,401,897 to Edmondson, Applicants respectfully traverse said rejection. As noted above, Edmondson teaches a vehicle wheel locking device such that said device attaches to a vehicle lug nut.

Applicants submit that the Zoor and Edmondson references, alone or in combination, fail to render obvious claims 16 and 23. Firstly, and noted earlier, Applicants submit that amended independent claims 11 and 19, on which dependent claims 16 and 23 rely on, contain non-obvious subject matter. In light of this, Applicants submit that claims 16 and 23 are thereby allowable. Furthermore, Applicants submit that there exists no motivation to combine a vehicle luggage rack retention system with a vehicle immobilizing device in inventing a locking system for a *component rack containing electronic components*. In light of the above, Applicants submit that claims 16 and 23 are in condition for allowance and ask that the examiner proceed in passing said claims to allowance.

E. Rejection of claims 13, 26, 27 and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 13, 26, 27 and 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being rendered obvious by Zoor. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejections as to claim 13. Applicants submit that claim 13 is a non-obvious combination with the subject matter of amended independent claim 11. Applicants further submit that pending claim 13

additionally is not obvious in light of Zoor, as Zoor teaches at column 4, line 31, "... a bolt which is located in the interior of said cap." Whereas claim 13, requires multiple lock mechanisms, which are not taught by Zoor.

As to claims 26 and 27, Applicants submit that Zoor fails to render the use of multiple fasteners obvious, as required by these claims. Additionally, as noted previously, Zoor explicitly teaches the use of a singular fastener in claim 2. As to claims 29-31, Applicants submit that these are non-obvious combinations with the non-obvious subject matter of amended claim 19.

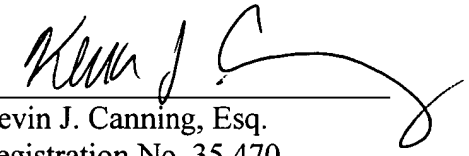
VI. Conclusion

In light of the aforementioned claim amendments, Applicants contend that each of the Examiners rejections have been adequately addressed and the pending application is in condition for allowance

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."** Should the examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the Applicants' attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP



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Dated: **April 7, 2003**

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Amended Claims:

1.(Amended) A locking cover for a component rack containing electronic components, comprising:

at least one lock mechanism mounted within said locking cover, wherein said lock mechanism includes a sliding security plate that extends beyond one end of said locking cover when in a locked position to prevent access to at least one of the electronic components; and

a track for slidingly supporting the sliding security plate.

11.(Amended) A locking system for a component rack containing electronic components, comprising:

at least one tray slidably mounted within the component rack;

at least one fastener removably anchoring said at least one tray to said component rack in a retracted position;

a cover on a portion of said at least one tray;

at least one lock mechanism mounted within said cover; and

a sliding security plate that is extendable to block access to said at least one fastener and to block access to the electonic components.

19.(Amended) A locking system for a component rack containing electronic components said component rack including, a tray slidably mounted within said component rack containing at least one of the electronic components, said tray anchored to said component rack in a closed position by at least one fastener, such that access to [removal of] said tray and the at least one electronic component on the tray requires access to and removal of said at least one fastener, said locking system comprising:

a cover mounted to said tray;

a locking mechanism which prevents access through said access port to said at least one fastener while in a locked position, and allows access through said access port to said fastener while in an unlocked position.

32.(Amended) A method of securing a tray within a component rack <u>containing electronic components</u>, comprising the steps of:

sliding said tray into a closed position within said component rack;

providing a cover for said tray;

sliding a security plate within said cover until said security plate covers and inhibits access to an access aperture leading to at least one fastener anchoring said tray into said component rack; and

activating a locking mechanism located within said cover of said tray and coupled to said security plate, to lock said security plate in place.